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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/832,865	04/12/2001	Hua Yu	USF-T142X	1377

7590 09/02/2003

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EXAMINER

GAMBEL, PHILLIP

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1644

DATE MAILED: 09/02/2003

15

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/832865	Applicant(s) YU	
	Examiner GAMBEL	Art Unit 1644	

- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address -

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____

2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) _____ is/are pending in the application. **1-15**

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) ☒ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement. **1-15**

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other:

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DETAILED ACTION

1. This application is in compliance with the Sequence Rules.

2. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121:

I. Claims 1-9, drawn to methods of stimulating immune responses by administering cells engineered to express sCD40, classified in Class 424, subclass 93.1.

II. Claim 10, drawn to cells engineered to express a fusion protein comprising sCD40 linked to GM-CSF, classified in Class 424, subclass 193.1.

III. Claim 11, drawn to methods of stimulating immune responses by administering nucleic acids that encode sCD40, classified in Class 514, subclass 44.

IV. Claims 12-13, drawn to methods of stimulating immune responses by administering sCD40, classified in Class 514, subclass 8.

V. Claim 14, drawn to methods of suppressing tumor growth by administering sCD40, classified in Class 514, subclass 8.

Applicant is invited to indicate whether Groups IV (claims 12-13) and Group V (claim 14) are related as genus - subgenus/species.

VI. Claim 15, drawn to methods of stimulating immune responses by administering cells engineered to lack expression of MHC molecules and engineered to express sCD40, classified in Class 424, subclass 93.1.

Applicant is invited to indicate whether Groups I (claims 1-9) and Group VI (claim 15) are related as genus - subgenus/species.

3. Inventions II and I / VI are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (M.P.E.P. § 806.05(h)).

In the instant case, there are a wide variety chemical and biotechnology based drugs as well as engineered cells employ to stimulate immune responses, including immune response to suppress tumor cells.

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4. Inventions I / III / IV / V / VI are different methods / methods of use, which require different ingredients, and process steps. Therefore, they are patentably distinct.

Again, applicant is invited to indicate whether Groups IV (claims 12-13) and Group V (claim 14) are related as genus - subgenus/species.

Again, applicant is invited to indicate whether Groups I (claims 1-9) and Group VI (claim 15) are related as genus - subgenus/species.

5. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for any group from Groups I-VI is not required for any other group from Groups I-VI and Groups I-VI have acquired a separate status in the art because the searches are not co-extensive and encompass divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

6. This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed Group I (as well as Groups III / IV / V / VI, if claims are added): wherein methods comprise administering one or more cytokines selected from the group of:

- A) IL-12,
- B) GM-CSF or
- C) IL-12 and GM-CSF

These species are distinct because their structures and modes of action are different.

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, claim 1 is generic, for example.

6. This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed Group I and II (as well as Group VI, if claims are added): wherein the engineered cells are selected from the group of:

- A) tumor cells,
- B) bone marrow cells,
- C) stem cells,
- D) fibroblast cells, or
- E) lymphocytes.

These species are distinct because their structures and modes of action are different.

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, claims 1 and 10 are generic, for example.

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7. Applicant is advised that a response to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 C.F.R. § 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. M.P.E.P. § 809.02(a).

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 of the other invention.

8. Applicant is advised that the response to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phillip Gambel whose telephone number is (703) 308-3997. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday from 7:30 am to 6:00 pm. A message may be left on the examiner's voice mail service. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christina Chan can be reached on (703) 308-3973. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Technology Center 1600 receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

Papers related to this application may be submitted to Technology Center 1600 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Technology Center 1600 via the PTO Fax Center located in Crystal Mall 1. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1989). The CM1 Fax Center telephone number is (703) 872-9306.

Phillip Gambel, PhD.
Primary Examiner
Technology Center 1600
September 2, 2003